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# AREVA Selects Bonneville County, Idaho, for its Uranium Enrichment Facility

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BETHESDA, Md., May 6 /PRNewswire/ -- AREVA Inc. announced today that it has selected the state of Idaho for its new U.S. uranium enrichment facility. The site is located in Bonneville County, 18 miles west of Idaho Falls, close to the Idaho National Lab.

The selection was made after an extensive technical, environmental and socio-economical analysis of several potential sites throughout the United States. With its decision, AREVA will move forward to seek all necessary approvals from federal, state and local agencies, including a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to construct and operate the facility.

"The United States needs more clean energy to support its economic growth. To enable us to meet those needs we have to expand our domestic nuclear infrastructure, secure our supply of enrichment services, and reduce our reliance on foreign imports. This new enrichment plant is a critical part of this process," said Michael McMurphy, president of AREVA Inc. He added, "While we had several attractive sites to choose from, we opted for Idaho Falls, which has strong ties to nuclear energy, and which welcomed AREVA and its proposed enrichment facility to become a new member of its community. We look forward to a productive and long-term partnership that will deliver diversity and strength to the regional economy."

The new state-of-the-art facility represents a multi-billion dollar investment that would create hundreds of high-skilled jobs during the construction and operation phases.

The Idaho Falls plant will provide enrichment services to U.S. nuclear plant operators using advanced proven centrifuge technology developed by the Enrichment Technology Company, Ltd. (ETC), an AREVA subsidiary, and world leader in enrichment services technology. This centrifuge technology has been successfully deployed in Europe for more than thirty years, using 50 times less electricity than the gaseous diffusion process.

AREVA is a major supplier of enrichment services. It owns and operates the Georges Besse enrichment plant in France, which has safely operated for nearly three decades. AREVA is currently constructing a new gas centrifuge enrichment facility in France -- Georges Besse II -- which is expected to become operational in 2009.

To find out more, explore AREVA's Uranium Enrichment Web site at:

[www.us.areva-nc.com/](http://www.us.areva-nc.com/)

More about AREVA

As the leading U.S. nuclear vendor and a key player in the electricity transmission and distribution sector, AREVA Inc.'s 5,300 U.S. energy employees are committed to serving the nation and paving the way for the future of the electricity market. With 45 locations across the nation and nearly \$2 billion in energy revenues in 2007, AREVA Inc., through its subsidiaries, combines U.S. leadership, access to worldwide expertise and a proven track record of performance. In the U.S. and in more than 100 countries around the world, AREVA is engaged in the 21st century's greatest challenges: making energy available to all, protecting the planet, and acting responsibly toward future generations. AREVA Inc. is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland.

#### FACT SHEET

##### AREVA: World Leader in Uranium Enrichment

#### Facts:

- Uranium must be enriched before it can be used as nuclear reactor fuel.
- The new AREVA enrichment facility will use advanced centrifuge technology. AREVA has more than 30 years experience operating enrichment facility safely.
- Even if no new nuclear power plants are constructed, the U.S. market will require all of the output from the AREVA and other planned facilities.

#### What is Uranium Enrichment?

Nuclear power plants supply 20 percent of America's electricity safely and reliably.

Nuclear power plants use uranium as a fuel source. Uranium is a naturally occurring metal found in deposits throughout the world. In its natural state, it cannot be used by nuclear power plants. It must first go through a series of refinements.

After uranium ore is mined, it is processed into a concentrated form called yellowcake, due to its bright yellow color when dried at a low temperature and its powdery consistency. Impurities are then removed and the yellowcake is converted into a material called uranium hexafluoride (UF6), a suitable form for enrichment.

At this stage, the UF6 must be further processed, or enriched. The ultimate goal of enrichment is to increase the amount of a specific element in the UF6 -- uranium-235. This element is the key building block of nuclear power plant fuel.

#### Enrichment Technologies

There are two ways to enrich uranium:

- Gaseous diffusion
- Centrifuge technology

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